



Landscaping
and Gardening
with *Herbs*

BY JOHN MASON AND STAFF OF ACS DISTANCE EDUCATION

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 GROWING HERBS	7
Growing healthy herbs	7
Getting started	8
Propagation	9
CHAPTER 2 SOILS & POTTING MIXES	14
What herbs to grow in what soils	17
Composting	18
Worms	21
CHAPTER 3 ORGANIC GARDENING WITH HERBS	22
Organic fertilisers	23
Other organic materials	27
Companion planting	29
Plants which improve the soil	32
How to make a no-dig garden	33
CHAPTER 4 HERB CULTURE	34
Mulching	34
Feeding herbs	34
Planting	35
Watering herbs	35
Protection	35
Safe pest & disease control	36
Allowable organic inputs	39
Hydroponic herbs	42
CHAPTER 5 LANDSCAPING WITH HERBS	43
Using herbs with other plants	44
Plan your herb garden	44
What to plant where (planting design)	46
How many herbs do i grow?	47
Keeping herbs apart	47
Herbs to fill gaps and tricky spots in your garden	50
Ideas of how to plant your herbs	52
Topiary	53

Hedges.....	55
CHAPTER 6 HERBS FOR DIFFERENT GARDEN STYLES	57
Some types of herb gardens.....	57
Creating a formal herb garden.....	60
Simple formal gardens.....	67
Herbs for a rockery.....	68
How to build a rockery.....	70
Xeriscape.....	71
CHAPTER 7 COLOURFUL AND FRAGRANT HERB GARDENS	73
Lemon scented herb garden.....	76
Creating a sensory garden with herbs.....	79
CHAPTER 8 CHOOSING HERBS FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS	86
Choosing different colours.....	86
Drought-resistant herbs.....	89
Very drought-resistant herbs.....	90
Herbs which grow in wet soils.....	91
Groundcovers.....	91
Climbers.....	91
Narrow leaves (moncotyledons).....	92
Trees.....	92
Herbs which grow in tropical conditions.....	92
Spicy scented herbs.....	92
Earthy scented herbs.....	92
Floral scented herbs.....	92
Herbs for hedges.....	93
Herbs to grow in shade in tropical areas.....	94
Hardy herbs for different situations.....	94
Fast-growing, low herbs.....	94
Herbs that can be planted in summer.....	98
CHAPTER 9 GROWING HERBS IN CONTAINERS	99
Caring for herbs in containers.....	100
Choosing the right container	101
Choosing baskets	101
Choosing pots.....	104

Potting mixes.....	107
Maintenance.....	108
Herbs as indoor plants.....	109
CHAPTER 10 GREEN WALLS WITH HERBS	112
What is a vertical garden?.....	112
A vertical garden structure.....	115
Growing herbs for green walls in containers	116
Choosing the right herbs.....	119
Further reading and study.....	121
More ebooks available.....	121
Courses available.....	121

The information in this book is derived from a broad cross-section of resources (research, reference materials and personal experience) from the authors and editorial assistants in the academic department of ACS Distance Education. It is, to the best of our knowledge, composed as an accurate representation of what is accepted and appropriate information about the subject, at the time of publication.

The authors fully recognise that knowledge is continually changing, and awareness in all areas of study is constantly evolving. As such, we encourage the reader to recognise that nothing they read should ever be considered to be set in stone. They should always strive to broaden their perspective and deepen their understanding of a subject, and before acting upon any information or advice, should always seek to confirm the currency of that information, and the appropriateness to the situation in which they find themselves.

As such, the publisher and author do not accept any liability for actions taken by the reader based upon their reading of this book.

Published by:

ACS Distance Education
P.O. Box 2092, Nerang MDC,
Queensland, Australia, 4211
admin@acs.edu.au
www.acsbookshop.com

UK & European Representative:
ACS Distance Education UK
P O Box 4171, Stourbridge, DY8 2WZ,
United Kingdom
admin@acsedu.co.uk
www.acsebooks.com

ISBN: 978-0-9925878-1-9

CREDITS

Photos: John Mason

Layout: Stephen Mason

Editorial Contributors:

John Mason Dip.Hort.Sc.

Jacinda Cole B.Sc., Cert.Garden Des.

Adriana Fraser Adv.Dip.Hort., Adv.Cert.Hort.

CHAPTER 1 GROWING HERBS

Herbs are plants which are grown because of the characteristics derived from the oils or other chemical components found in their tissues. Herbs come in all shapes and sizes, from bulbs and perennials to woody trees and shrubs.

Herbs can be described as any plant whose roots, bark, stems, leaves, seeds or flowers are used for specific purposes. Many are scented plants, and all provide something which is useful. For example, there are herbs used in

cooking, cosmetics, perfumes, crafts, pest control, or medicinally. Herbs are often grown by themselves in a dedicated herb garden, though they can also be mixed in with other plants throughout the garden.



Grow together different herbs with similar vigour but varied foliage colour and texture

Many people grow herbs in containers, as tub plants or baskets, kept on a patio, in a window box, or even as indoor plants. Whatever way you choose, growing herbs will add a new and exciting dimension to your gardening. Even old hands at herb gardening continue to be amazed by the diversity of herb varieties and their uses.

Growing Healthy Herbs

To get the most out of your herbs it is important that you keep your plants in a healthy state. Herbs are generally very hardy and highly adaptable plants however the correct care will improve the lifespan and general condition of even the hardiest plants.



Herbs grown in raised beds provide drainage

Where Can They Be Grown?

Herbs are quite versatile and can be grown in a variety of situations, which include:

- Formal herb gardens
- Informal herb beds in the garden such as in many cottage gardens
- In containers such as baskets, herb pots, tubs and window boxes.
- Amongst other plants, such as in a vegie garden as companion plants for insect control, or as an additional crop.

Getting Started

You can begin a herb garden from seeds, cuttings, purchased plants or plants obtained from friends, etc. If you choose to buy plants, tube stock is generally the most economical means of purchase because most herbs grow quickly. However, large pots are usually better for the slower growing woody herbs such as rosemary, lavender and bay trees.

When purchasing plants, you should look for the following features as an indication of whether it is a healthy plant you are looking at:

- Does the plant have any damage to its foliage?

- Is there any discoloration of the root tips?
- Is the plant pot bound?
- Are the growing tips lush and healthy looking?
- Is the colour of the foliage healthy looking or is it mottled or discoloured?
- Are there signs of pests or disease, including under the leaves?
- Is the plant stem vigorous and not straggly?

It is very important to remember that if you want healthy plants you should only purchase good quality plants. Don't compromise, it works out cheaper in the long run!



Lavender grown in informal beds separated by pavers

Propagation

Most herbs are relatively easy to propagate. Many grow well from seed, and seed production is still one of the most common methods of propagation. However, cuttings and division are the preferred methods of propagation because they enable the production of plants with identical characteristics to the parent plants.



Mint, thyme and other herbs can propagate by division

Seed Propagation

To propagate plants by seed, consider the health of the seed, freshness of the seed, and choosing the right season for sowing. Also, follow recommended procedures and keep seeds and seedlings moist but not wet.